

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.

August 27, 2014

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
August 27, 2014
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, in Council Chambers, located on the 6th floor of City Hall, One South Third Street, to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body and to conduct a Public Hearing regarding the 2015 Community Development Block Grant Program.

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also in attendance were Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk, William Murphy, City Solicitor, and Glenn Steckman, City Administrator. There were twenty-three other persons present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Mr. Warren the Agenda was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Edinger, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON MINUTES

On motion of Dr. Ruggles and Dr. Warner, the August 13, 2014 Council Meeting minutes were approved, as submitted, by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren, Panto (7)
Nays: None (0)

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

At this time Mr. Alan Jennings, Executive Director of the Community Action League of the Lehigh Valley, spoke and presented a power point presentation regarding the 10th Anniversary of the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership, and the programs that they have and have had in the past.

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Mayor Panto and Mrs. Vulcano thanked all persons involved in the programs, and Mrs. Vulcano said that it had been a pleasure serving on the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership for the last 10 years.

At this time Certificates of Appreciation were read and were presented to Ms. Karen Vadyak, a representative from Easton Hospital and Mr. Joe Carcione a representative from Lafayette Ambassador Bank for their participation and 10 year donations to the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership program.

Ms. Vadyak and Mr. Carcione thanked Council for the honor shown to their organizations.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Agenda Items Only)

Mayor Panto spoke regarding changes for a rear entry door to the New City Hall, and regarding security on the floors and the building.

At this time Randy Galiotto and Henry Delveccio, representatives from Spillman and Farmer Architects, gave a brief update on the interior of the New City Hall.

Council members made comments and asked questions regarding the color of accents that would be used throughout the building, the types and amount of windows in the building, the type of lighting that would be used in the building, restrooms, doors throughout the building, and the placement of a projection screen in Council Chambers.

Mayor Panto informed everyone that the after party for the Movies at the Mill would be held in the new Parking Garage on S. 3rd Street.

Gretchen Longenbach, Director of Economic Development spoke regarding the donation of sculptures for the Karl Sterner Arts Trail.

Dr. Ruggles asked questions regarding the construction on Hog Town land, which were answered by the Mayor and Ms. Longenbach.

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

PUBLIC HEARING
2015 Community Development Block Grant Program

At 6:56 p.m. Mayor Panto opened the Public Hearing and turned it over to Mrs. Vulcano, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee.

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Mrs. Vulcano read the following statement:

“The purpose of this evening’s hearing is to obtain views and comments from individuals and organizations concerning the City’s goals and objectives for the Five Year Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2015 to 2019.”

“We will also obtain any views and comments from individuals and organizations concerning the City’s housing and community development needs. The information gathered will be used in the preparation of the Consolidated Plan elements for Fiscal Years 2015 community Development Block Grant and related Programs.”

Finally we will provide an opportunity for citizens, organizations, non-profits to make requests for funding for projects or suggest activities that could be funded with CDBG funds that would meet community needs.”

Mrs. Vulcano then called on the following individual organizations to address to Council regarding their requests.

1. Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living; requesting \$25,000 for its “Place Program”, no one was in attendance.
2. Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, requesting \$5,000. Mr. Alan Jennings, spoke regarding his organizations request for home ownership counseling, foreclosure mitigation, counseling & mortgage foreclosure diversion services.

Mayor Panto asked questions regarding his organization’s Outreach Façade Grant and how the applicants for grants were selected.

Mr. Jennings said that he would have to defer that question to the selection committee who was not in attendance.

3. Easton Neighborhood Center; requesting \$22,850. Ms. Isla Long, President of the Board of Directors spoke regarding her organization’s request for social services to low and moderate income individuals.

4. Communities in School Lehigh Valley; requesting \$21,750. Mr. Tim Mulligan spoke regarding his organization’s request for career services counseling for at risk students.

Dr. Warner asked if their services were for any student and not just the City of Easton students.

Mr. Mulligan said that their services were for any students in their area.

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5. Greater Easton Development Partnership; requesting \$50,000. Gretchen Longenbach, Executive Director of the GEDP and Sandra Levisay spoke regarding their organization's request for the Easton Ambassador Program.

Ms. Levisay said that a group had formed, "The Friends of Easton" and were attempting to raise \$80,000 also for this program.

6. Family Connections of Easton; requesting \$3,500. Caroline Serva, Executive Director spoke regarding her organization's request for high quality pre-school for low and moderate income families.

7. Easton Area Community Center; requesting \$3,658. No one was in attendance.

Tina Roseberry, a representative of SSM Group Inc., the City's CDBG consultant spoke to Council regarding the DCBG program.

Dr. Ruggles and Mr. Brown said that they would like to see, in the next plan, guidelines for requesting agencies to show results of the funds that were used for their programs and their goals that they would like to attain.

There were no further comments or questions from Council or the audience.

Mrs. Vulcano read the following:

"This evening's hearing was intended to assess community needs for 2015 and the five year consolidated plan, as required by HUD."

"On October 8, 2014, a second required Public Hearing will be conducted to review and solicit comment on the 2015 action plan and the 2015-2019 five year plan.

Mrs. Vulcano closed the hearing at 7:32 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Dr. Warner and Dr. Ruggles the following items were adopted by the following vote:

Bill 24, (Ordinance 5471), Amending Sections in Chapter 222, Buyer Notification, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. This Bill amends numerous sections in Chapter 222, Buyer Notification of the City's Codes by updating timetables for all activities associated with the BNI process, simplifying the fee schedule, giving greater flexibility for the buyer and seller to mutually determine the party responsible for mitigating violations, and giving a greater specificity focusing inspections on life and safety issues.

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Bill 25, (Ordinance 5472), Amending Sections 285-4, Buyer Notification and 295-13, Parking Permits in Chapter 285, Fees of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. This Bill amends Section 285-4 by setting new fees for inspections of a Single-Family residential, Multi Family residential and Non Residential, Mixed-Use properties, re-inspections and doubling the fees for selling of a property without first obtaining an inspection for certificate of occupancy, and for setting fees for the Gold Pass Residential Parking Permits.

Bill 26, (Ordinance 5473), Approving an Agreement of Sale between the City of Easton, Pa. and the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Easton Pa. This Bill approves an Agreement of Sale with the Redevelopment Authority for the purchase of property located on North 13th Street.

Bill 27, (Ordinance 5474), Amending Article 1 of Chapter 399, Parking Permits. This Bill decreased the Parking Permit Districts from three (3) to Two (2), and described what meters would not be allowed to be used for the Residential Parking permit program.

Bill 28, (Ordinance 5475), Amending Section 404-4, Acts Prohibited, of Chapter 404, Parks, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. This Bill prohibits the use of tobacco at any owned or City leased park or swimming facility, and also prohibits the practice of Metal Detection in any City Park

Resolution 109-2014 which approved a Stipulation of Counsel for properties belonging to Groff Real Estate Investments.

Resolution 110-2014 which approved a Right-of-Way Encroachment Agreement with Scott Quality Products, Inc. for 8 Centre Square.

Resolution 111-2014 which authorized the Police Department to apply for a Department of Transportation Grant for the DUI Program.

Resolutions 112 through 119, which approved Certificates of Appropriateness for 21 S. 2nd, 1 S. 3rd, 14-16 S. 5th, 101-103 Northampton, 135 Northampton, 518 Northampton, 323 Pine and 312 Spring Garden Streets.

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)
Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

The following reports received by Council:

(a) Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority for March, April and May 2014 meeting minutes.

Mayor Panto accepted the reports on behalf of Council.

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke regarding legislation that he would have for later in the meeting regarding approving positions in the Department of Finance and for amending the 2014 Salary & Wage Resolution.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Heagele to go over the 2013 Audit Results.

Mr. Heagele went over the 2013 Basic Statements and Auditor's Report and the Highlights and Executive Summary.

Mayor Panto explained what was done with investments.

Tony Bassil, City Controller, said that he had met with Mr. Heagele and approved the Audit report.

Mrs. Vulcano, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, had no report.

Dr. Warner, Chairman of the Planning Committee, had no report.

Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, had no report, but announced that his family would be moving from the City and that he would be resigning from City Council, effective September 12, 2014.

The City Clerk was directed to advertise in the newspaper, on the City's Web Site and on the City's electronic bulletin board for any persons interested in being appointed to Council to fill Mr. Warren's unexpired term.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairman of the Public Works Committee had no report, but informed Council that he and two police officers had traveled to Orlando Fla. to view and to learn about the LIDAR System, and spoke briefly on the system and explained what it could be used for.

Mr. Edinger, Chairman of the Administration Committee had no report, but asked the City Administrator Mr. Steckman and the IT Manager, Mr. Caruso to speak to Council regarding Code Enforcement Employee requested software, which they did.

There was a short discussion on this matter between Council and Mr. Steckman and Mr. Caruso regarding what the software could do for the employees and different City Departments, the location of the software company and if this system would require a new position in the Codes Department. Mr. Steckman said that he would get back to Council with any unanswered questions.

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Mr. Murphy, City Solicitor, reported that before the meeting Council had met in an Executive Session and had discussed Real Estate and personnel matters.

Mayor Panto passed out a sketch of the proposed mural that Anthony Marraccini would like to paint on the City wall located in the Northampton Street Parking lot on the 200 block of Northampton Street. Council indicated that they liked the sketch.

Anthony Marraccini thanked Council for their support, and thanked Mr. Warren for dealing with all of his complaints over the years.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received by Council.

- (a) Raisa Furman, Thank You Note for Police attendance at the Sports for Health Camp.
- (b) Joan Chelsen, Thank You Letter for Police participation at the Sports for Health Camp.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 29, Amending Article III, Traffic Control Map, of Chapter 569, Vehicle and Traffic, of the code of the City of Easton, Pa., was introduced by Mr. Warren and ordered process for adoption.

This Bill would authorize the removal of five of the six reserved Handicapped Parking Spaces located on the West side of the 400 block of Seitz Street.

Bill 30, Amending Section 285-42, Parking garage fees, of Chapter 285, Fees, of the Code of the City of Easton, Pa. was introduced by Mr. Brown and ordered processed for adoption.

This Bill would establish a \$10 fee for reactivation of a parking card if the person violates the parking agreement and their card is deactivated for the violation.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would approve the establishment of two new positions in the Department of Finance.

A Resolution approving the establishment of Accounting & Revenue Supervisor and an Accounting & Payroll Supervisor in the Finance Department was tabled on motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

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Yeas: Warner, Warren, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would amend the 2014 Salary and Wage Resolution.

A Resolution amending the 2014 Salary and Wage Resolution was tabled on motion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Warren, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner (7)
Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Resolution which would accept the donation of a Sculpture for the Karl Sterner Arts Trail.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Vulcano:

120-2014

The above Resolution was adopted on motion of Mrs. Vulcano and Mr. Warren by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Brown, Edinger, Ruggles, Vulcano, Warner, Warren (7)
Nays: None (0)

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p. m. on motion of Mr. Brown and Dr. Ruggles by the following vote:

Yeas: Panto, Warren, Warner, Vulcano, Ruggles, Edinger, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

Thomas A. Hess, City Clerk